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A Push to Stop Bush Revved Up by Church

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, Nov. 11 (News Bureau) — Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, launched today his campaign to stop George Bush from becoming CIA director, arguing that the nomination was a "travesty" on efforts to reform the spy agency.

In a 45-minute senate speech, Church called the nomination of Bush, now United States envoy to China and former national Republican chairman, "ill-advised" because of Bush's "prolonged involvement in partisan activities." Contending that Bush might use the CIA directorship as "a springboard to higher political office," Church said that he doubted that Bush would be able to stand up to President Ford if he thought administration policy was wrong.

Some Dems Hold Back

Church, who has presidential ambitions himself, had hoped to find someone else in the Senate to lead the attack on Bush. So far, some Democrats have been skeptical but have refused to flatly oppose Bush.

Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo) for example, has not made up his mind. He sits on both the Intelligence Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee, which will hold hearings on the Bush nomination, but not before January.

Lists Some Successes

Two influential Armed Services members, Sens. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) and Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) have taken a wait-and-see attitude. Symington contends he sees "no reason" so far to block Bush, while Jackson, who has "very strong reservations," has not made up his mind.

Church, attacked by CIA supporters for calling the agency a "rogue elephant" and a "run-away," sought today to adjust his image as constant critic by pointing out CIA successes.



UPI photo
Sen. Frank Church enjoying a break at hearing yesterday.

Among others, he listed these accomplishments:

- The agency has detected every new Soviet weapon in the last 25 years from the H-bomb to the latest strategic missiles.
- The Soviet antiballistic missile system around Moscow was identified seven years before it became operational.